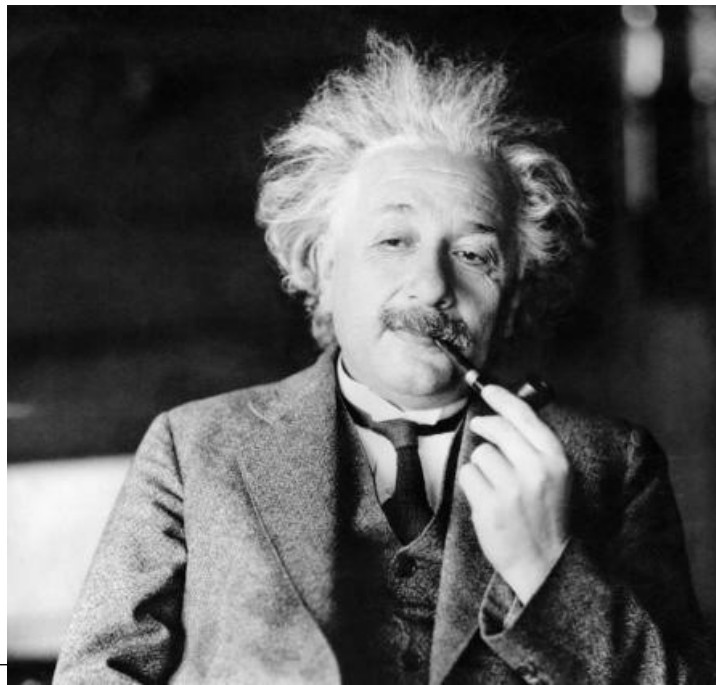


2009 USAEUR Senior Leader Sexual Assault Training

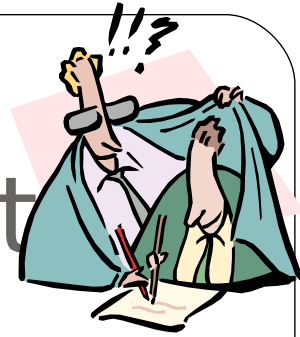
**Sex offenders, Service
Members, and You**
**Leadership Beyond The
Obvious**

Insanity: doing the same thing
over and over again and expecting
different results

Albert Einstein

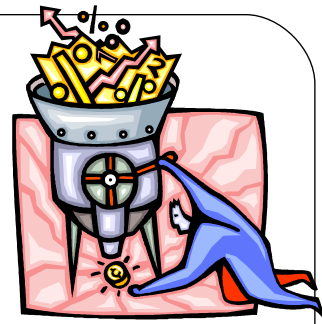


Before we begin...a test



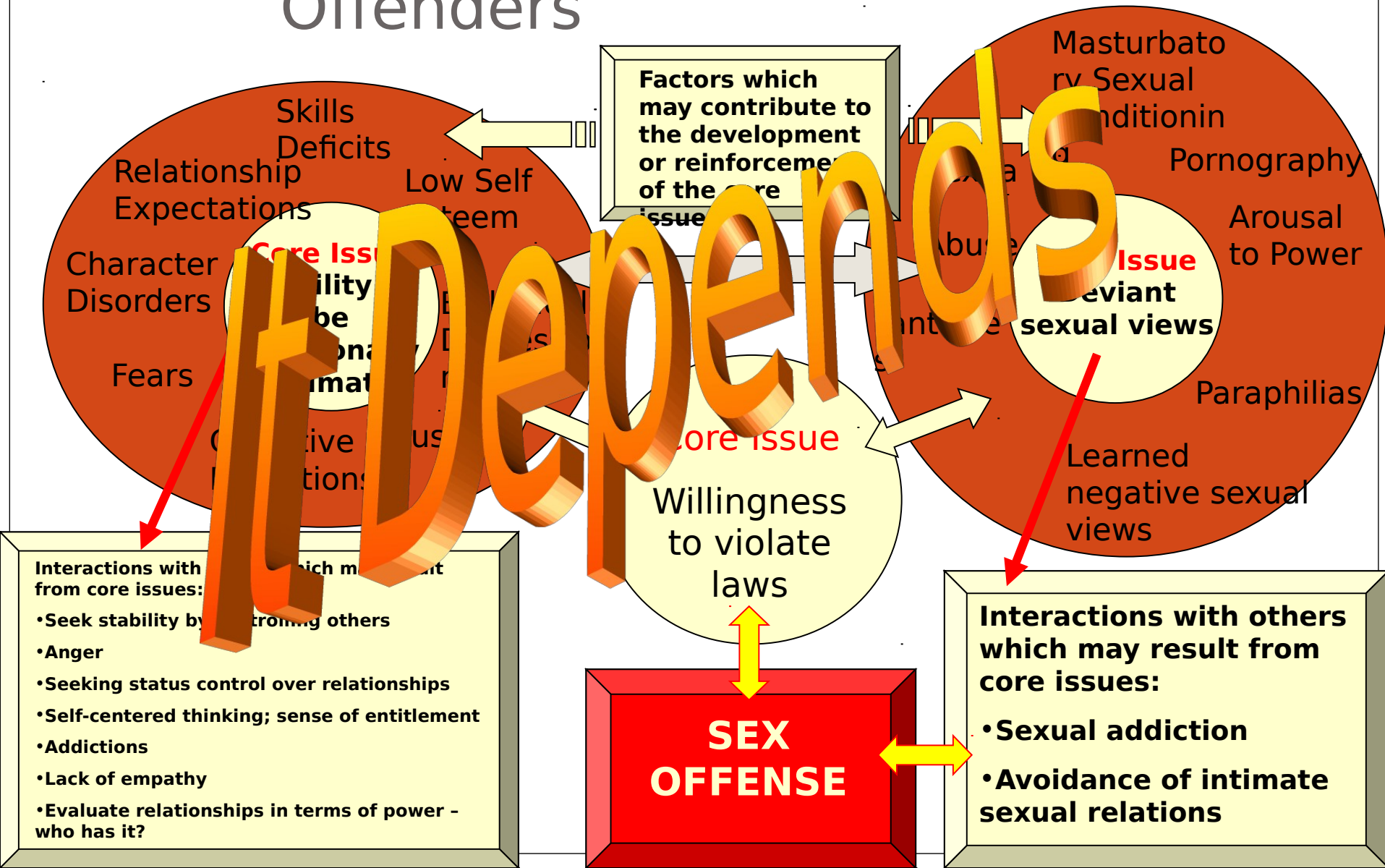
- What are the characteristics of sex offenders?
- Do child sex offenders and adult sex offenders have anything in common?
- What other crimes do sex offenders commit?
- What is a hebophile?
- What is the difference between a sadist and a rapist?
- What typology of sex offender is the most difficult to find?
- Are female sex offenders like male sex offenders?

Sex offender prevalence



- The chances of being caught for a sexual offense is 3 percent (Abel et al, 1988)
- One study showed 44 percent of woman had either been victims of rape or attempted rape (Russell, 1984,2000)
- 561 sex offenders admitted to more than 291,000 sexual offenses with more than 195,000 victims – could fill two and a half Superdomes (Abel et al, 1987)
- 23 offenders in an incarcerated treatment program admitted to about 3 victims each – following polygraph they admitted to an average of 175 victims each (Van Wyk)
- Only about 5 percent of all rapists ever spend a day in jail (Saulter, 2003)
- These are a sampling of only the offenders who were caught

Model for Understanding Sex Offenders



Sex Offenders – The Stereotypes

- *He's mean looking, and he carries some type of weapon. He stalks his victims like a predator, attacking women at night in parks and dark streets, or breaking into their homes. He leaves them physically brutalized and emotionally scarred*
- Is this correct?
- In most cases it is absolutely false

Five stages of violent crime

- Intent
- Interview
 - Regular
 - Hot
 - Escalating
 - Silent
 - Prolonged
- Positioning
- Attack
- Reaction



Sex Offenders

- Most sex offenders appear to be nice, professional, honest, empathetic, and may have exceptional service records
- Many sex offenders commit other crimes
 - Domestic violence, child abuse, robbery, larceny, drug offenses, etc.
- High recidivism rate among sexual offenders

Number and Types of Sexually Deviant Acts **

Diagnosis

Diagnosis	Female Noninc Ped	Male Noninc Ped	Female Inces Ped	Male Inces Ped	Rape	Exhibi- tion	Voyeur	Frottage	Other Ds*
Female Nonincest Pedophile									
Number	224	78	78	27	55	65	32	24	44
% of	100%	35%	35%	12%	25%	29%	14%	11%	24%
Male Nonincest Pedophile									
Number	78	153	19	30	17	31	16	12	26
% of	51%	100%	12%	20%	11%	20%	11%	8%	17%
Female Incest Pedophile									
Number *	78	19	159	19	30	31	11	10	32
% of	49%	12%	100%	12%	19%	20%	7%	6%	20%
Male Incest Pedophile									
Number	27	30	19	44	7	7	6	4	20
% of	61%	68%	43%	100%	16%	16%	14%	9%	23%
Rape									
Number	55	17	30	7	126	35	23	14	33
% of	44%	14%	24%	6%	100%	28%	18%	11%	26%
Exhibitionist									
Number	65	31	31	7	35	142	39	23	42
% of	46%	22%	22%	5%	25%	100%	28%	16%	30%
Voyeurism									
Number	32	16	11	6	23	39	62	14	28
% of	52%	26%	18%	10%	37%	63%	100%	23%	45%
Frottage									
Number	24	12	10	4	14	23	14	62	14
% of	39%	19%	16%	7%	23%	37%	23%	100%	23%
Other Diagnosis*									
Number	44	26	32	10	33	42	28	14	150
% of	28%	16%	20%	6%	21%	26%	18%	9%	100%

*Other diagnoses include: sadism; masochism; obscene phone calls; obscene mail; transvestism; transsexuality; fetishism; bestiality; urolagnia; odors; coprophilia; and necrophilia.

** Abel, G. et al. (1988). Multiple paraphiliac diagnosis among sex offenders. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 16, 153-168.

Non sex crimes by known rapists & rear prior to Commitment

	% of Men	Total Offenses	Mean
Use hard Drugs	57	376	10.2
Cash another's check	18	36	1.0
Hit partner	46	197	5.3
Hit another woman	89	297	8.0
Shoplift	46	777	21.0
Stolen property	62	976	26.4
Auto theft	14	49	1.3
Extortion	24	47	1.3
Drugs to minor	46	1,009	27.3
Hit own child	16	47	1.3
Hit another child	11	178	4.8
Stolen credit card	11	41	1.1
Theft > \$100	59	159	4.3
Sell hard drugs	27	554	15.0
Public intoxication	84	2,231	60.3
Aggravated assault	62	120	3.2
Arson	11	7	.2
Breaking and entering	57	315	8.5
Concealed weapon	43	2,089	56.5
Kidnap	78	172	4.6
Robbery	46	65	1.8
Steal > \$100	73	1,535	41.5
Aggregate	100	11,277	304.8

How do they do it? Deception

- One example
 - Identify potential victim and assess vulnerability and opportunity
 - Establish positive rapport
 - Test the victim
 - Isolate the victim
 - Victimize
 - Ensure secrecy
 - Re-victimize

Scripts

The Third Person

- First Persona
- Second Persona

Third Persona



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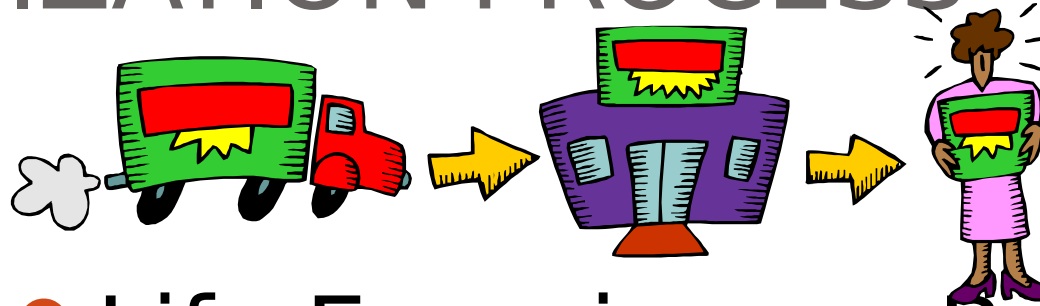


OFFENSE REQUIREMENTS



The Basics

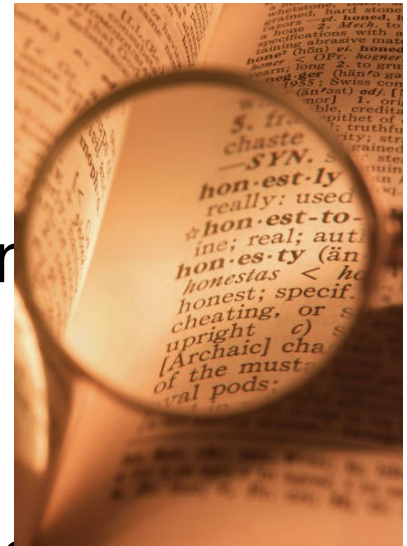
VICTIMIZATION PROCESS



- Life Experiences Before The Assault
- Common Experiences During The Assault
- Common Experiences After The Assault

Common Challenges to Credibility

- Lack of physical resistance
- Delayed reporting
- Inconsistent or untrue statements
- Lack of victim cooperation
- Recantations
- Feelings/fears of doubt or blame
- Past and/or present conduct (sexual or otherwise)
- “He said, She said”



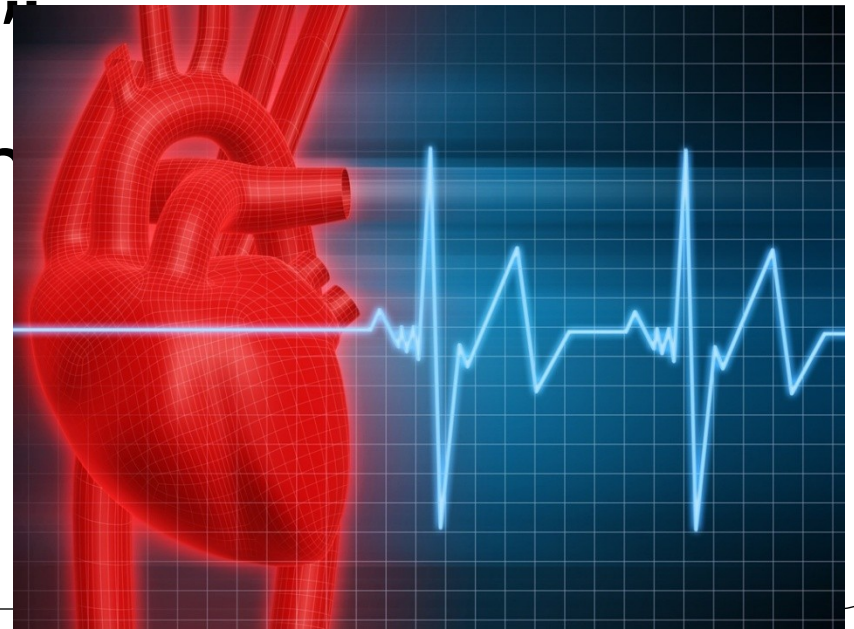
What is credibility?

- How is credibility established?
- Why do you believe people?
- What makes you distrust someone?
- Does credibility have anything to do with the truth?
- Why is credibility so important?
- Likeability = Credibility



Experiences During the Assault

- Physical resistance
- Verbal resistance
- Surprise or confusion
- “Frozen fright”
- Disassociation



Intermediate

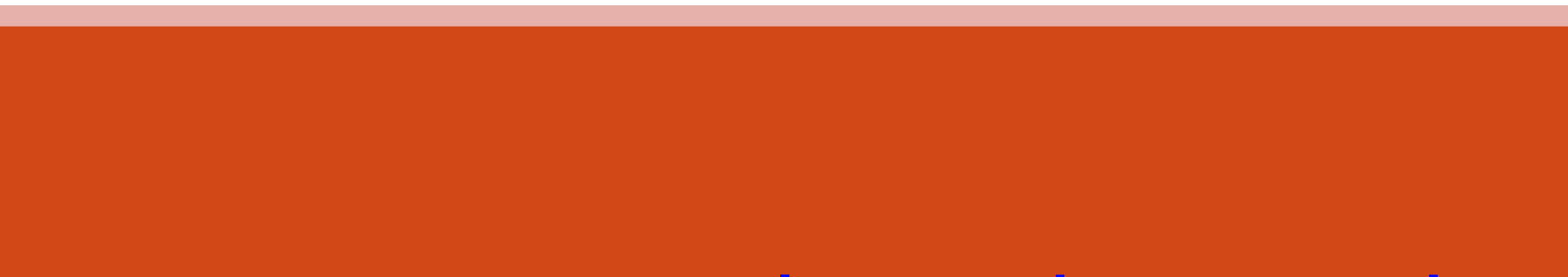
- Severity Of Response Does Not Reflect Brutality Of Attack
- Stranger Vs. Non-stranger Sexual Assault
- Re-victimized Victims

VICTIMIZATION – Common Victim Behaviors

- May try to normalize trauma
- May have difficulty understanding the context of the assault
- May have difficulty fully realizing and/or appreciating danger posed by offender
- May attempt to “forgive” the offender
- May believe their higher power will protect them – exclusively
- May feel overwhelming guilt and may try to ease their conscience and may blame themselves

SPECIAL ISSUES AFFECTING VICTIMIZATION – Common Victim Behaviors

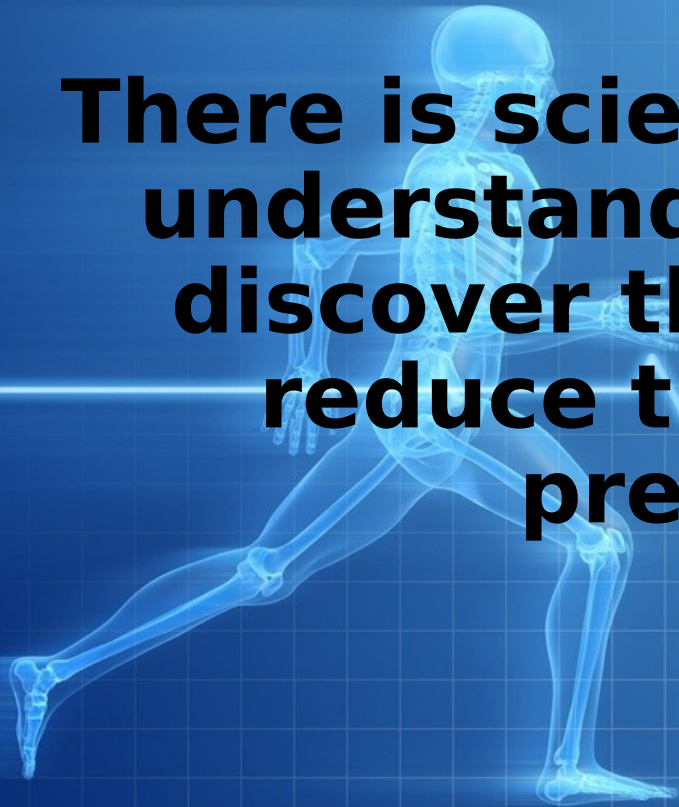
- May be trying to protect others – physically, psychologically
- May feel pressure from the rapist or others
- May actually feel safer maintaining the relationship
- May have some emotional/physical attachment w/offender
- May still be under the influence or manipulation and control of the offender
- May be worried about collateral misconduct – perceived or real



We cannot truly understand
behavior without
understanding the
experiences of the person or
context in which the
behavior occurs

The SCIENCE of Trauma

**There is science we need to
understand and apply to
discover the truth...can
reduce the fear and
prejudice**



The difference between Stress, Crisis, and Trauma

- A **stressor** is:
 - An event that can cause a person physical or emotional tension
 - Short term or chronic
 - Followed by physical and emotional effects which are alleviated when the stressor is removed
 - Examples?
 - IG Inspection
 - Late for a meeting
 - Duty call
 - What type of crimes might you consider stressful on the victim?

The difference between Stress, Crisis, and Trauma

- A crisis is:
 - A threat to homeostasis (Caplan, 1964)
 - A temporary disruption of coping and problem solving skills – but not necessarily a life threatening experience
 - Resolved when the crisis event passes and normal functioning returns
 - Examples?
 - A traffic accident in which you break a leg
 - When will the cast come off, how are you going to get to work, how will you walk?
 - Your child has an epileptic fit in front of you for the 1st time
 - You fail the IG inspection
 - What type of crimes might you consider stressful on the victim?

The difference between Stress, Crisis, and Trauma

- Trauma is:
 - More extreme versions of stressful events, they are perceived as: life threatening and evoke fear, helplessness and even horror
 - Have physical and emotional responses that last long after the event is over
 - Memory of the traumatic event lingers on
 - Fear and psychological arousal continues and the body may never fully recover
 - Life changing...

The difference between Stress, Crisis, and Trauma

- Examples of trauma?

- An inquiry has been completed and you have been notified you are being courts-martialed
- You find your child dead
- You are told you have cancer
- What type of crimes might you consider traumatic on the victim?
 - Child abuse
 - Suicide (friend, co-worker, relative)
 - Attempted homicide (victim, friend, co-worker, relative)
 - Homicide (friend, co-worker, relative, witness)
 - Sexual assault
 - Robbery
 - Combat

What does this mean?

- When anyone (including you) are under threat – the **cortex** is shut down
- Time to come back to normal state is days, weeks, months, and years...
 - Intervention is state dependent
- When people want to avoid talking – for whatever reason – they use words that conceal rather than reveal “what they can tolerate in the moment”
- Just because we are ready for every detail – doesn’t mean the victim is ready or able to fully disclose

The brain responds to threat

- Preparing the human for survival
 - Freezing – the instantaneous assessment of danger (some people do not leave this state, unable to fight or run away)
 - Flight – escaping the danger
 - Fight – trying to defeat, remove or contain the fear
 - Tend or befriend – the person may survive by a strategy that does not use either of the other approaches but uses interpersonal skills in an attempt to reduce the threat

Traumatic responses can alter

- Physiology
 - Heart rate, respirations, dilated pupils, dry mouth, knot in the stomach
- Affective (mood and emotion) responses
 - Fear, helplessness, horror
- Cognitive (thought) processing
 - Memory – fragmented, out of sequence
 - Time distortion
 - Increased confabulation
 - Trauma memory and recall

Understanding Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assaults



Rape victims assume the risk of being raped when they...?

- Drink too much
- Use drugs (legal or illegal)
- Dress sexy
- Kiss the accused
- Make sexual advances
- Does not rebuff sexual advances the way we would
- Accepts a ride with the accused
- Goes to the room of the accused
 - At night...
- Demonstrates an attraction to the accused

Separating the Myth from Reality?

- Most sexual assault reports involve alcohol?
- Voluntary intoxication on the part of the victim is an extenuating circumstance for the suspect?
- Alcoholics have a higher threshold of decision making awareness at higher levels of intoxication than do non-alcoholics?
- If both parties are drunk one cannot be accused of rape/sexual assault?
- The alleged victim can give legal consent during an alcohol induced blackout?

We often don't know what **Reality** is

- Only a fraction of sexual victimizations are reported to the police, and those that are rarely include *accurate* details on the level of perpetrator and victim levels of intoxication (Abbey et al., 2001)
- Alcohol use has been reported in up to 75% of acquaintance rapes (Crowell & Burgess, 1996)
- Most people question if the victim was really sexually assaulted – or just confused or feels regret due to making “poor decisions” while intoxicated
- Many people believe victims who drink “put themselves” into the situation
- Alleged rapists cannot be held accountable for “poor judgment” exercised by the intoxicated victim

Overview of toxicology

- “If recreational drugs were tools, alcohol would be the sledgehammer”
- Few cognitive functions and behaviors escape the impact of alcohol (White, 2003)
- Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant (Harding, 2003)
- A small amount of alcohol eases tension
- A large amount removes inhibitions
- A larger amount still **prevents** the victim from resisting the aggressor

Alcohol 101

Alcohol **impairs** both cognition (the process of knowing, thinking, learning and judging) and psychomotor skills (voluntary movement).

Alcohol first effects the most recently developed part of the brain, which are responsible for **judgment, inhibition, personality, intellectual** and **emotional** states.

As alcohol concentration increases, the **impairment** of psychomotor functions such as muscular coordination, balance, eye movement, **etc.** also increase. As alcohol concentration continues to increase,

Alcohol 101 – So what?

- Intoxicated victims are less likely than sober victims to realize the perpetrator is trying to sexually assault them
- Intoxicated victims are more likely to exercise poor judgments and decision making concerning their safety
- Intoxicated victims do not need to be “forced” to comply
- Intoxicated victims cannot remember sufficient details
- Intoxicated victims are viewed less credible than sober victims
- Intoxicated victims experience added guilt and shame
- Intoxicated victims rarely report were sexually assaulted
- Intoxicated victims rarely see their perpetrators tried and convicted
- Intoxicated victims are more often than not blamed for their behaviors while the alleged perpetrator gains support and sympathy from society at large (including jury pools and some police agencies)

Recantations



~~recantation~~
reflection
(revision)

Recantation

- What is a recantation?
- Do we ever close out a report simply based on a victim's recantation?
- Do we ever believe a crime occurred even though the victim recanted?
- Can a case be successfully prosecuted even though a victim recanted?
- What would cause a victim to recant?

Why Victims Recant

- The victim has made a false report and wants to confess to avoid any further internal and external conflict
- The victim has intentionally or unintentionally provided false information and is not being believed
- The victim's story by the very nature of the assault lacks credibility and is not believed
- The victim has been honest and is experiencing secondary trauma during the investigation
- The victim has been assaulted and external pressures has caused the victim to recant
- FEAR!



Cost – Benefit Analysis

- We all conduct a cost benefit analysis on a daily basis
 - Should I go to work on time?
 - Should I control my temper?
 - Should I shade the truth?
 - Should I make this purchase?
 - Should I pursue this relationship?
 - Should I attend this training?
- What's the Cost? What's the Benefit?

Risk Analysis

- Many victims are under extreme pressure and may feel it is easier to be “labeled” as a liar than continue through the trauma of the investigation
- The victim has already suffered and immeasurable trauma and simply cannot take any more
- How do I relieve the pressure and get on with my life?

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost certain	M	H	H	E	E
Likely	M	M	H	H	E
Possible	L	M	M	H	E
Unlikely	L	M	M	M	H
Rare	L	L	M	M	H

The Science of Human Deception Detection

Differences in Beliefs About Indicators Of Deception

Behavior	Students	Prisoners	Professional Lie Detectors
Aldert, Vrij, & Semin (1996)			
Gaze aversion	.78	.33	.73
Smiles	.28	.06	.24
Head movements	.33	.36	.43
Trunk movements	.24	.13	.34
Postural shifts	.63	-.17	.67
Gestures	.04	-.06	.40
Hand/finger movements	.48	-.11	.59
Foot/leg movements	.71	.33	.72
Self touches	.64	.38	.67
Shoulder shrugs	-.04	.41	.44
Response length	.06	.06	.24
Speech rate	.51	.26	.34
Latency period	-.10	.06	.29
Ah-filled phrases	.32	.33	.51
Non-ah speech disturbances	.65	.38	.54
Pitch of voice	.34	.13	.31

A wake-up call

Group	Accuracy
Students	.25
Prisoners	.32
Customs officers	.22
Police detectives	.22
Prison guards	.23
Patrol police officers	.24
Aldert, Vrij, & Semin (1996)	
<i>Journal of Nonverbal Behavior</i>	



What does this mean?

- To be fair – most studies put deception detection for most (including police detectives, agents, etc.) somewhere around chance – of course – not so good
- The significance of this study is that participants primarily used the 16 perceived indicators of deception – as we were trained to do – generally do worse than other groups but have a greater – even significant – degree of certainty of the ability to detect deception
- Bottom line – no one - including us - are very skilled at deception detection – we would do well to remember this and stop making inappropriate and often harmful and damaging judgments based on baseless assumptions



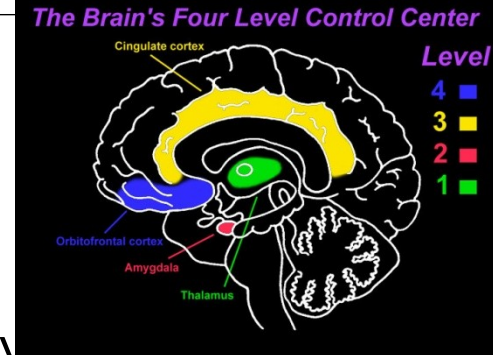
Pants on Fire...

Most people believe the following:

- Liars can be detected by observing body language and behaviors such as gaze aversion, pitch of voice, speech rate, ah-filled pauses, response length, etc.
- Liars are less cooperative, talk for a shorter time, provide fewer details, practice avoidance, appear to be rehearsed, are less certain, are inconsistent, appear less pleasant and more tense, may experience deep feelings of guilt and shame.
- Liars have physiological reactions such as high blood pressure, increased heart rate, increased respiration
- Liars may demonstrate emotional arousal or may have a flat affect
- Liars often have difficulty performing cognitively complex tasks and may appear to be disorganized
- Liars may demonstrate a range of emotions including fear, sadness and anger
- Liars may also demonstrate an unusual degree of rigidity and inhibition

The problem...

Science of Trauma



- Trauma victims can be detected by observing body language and behaviors such as gaze aversion, pitch of voice, speech rate, ah-filled pauses, response length, etc.
- Trauma victims are sometimes less cooperative, talk for a shorter time, provide fewer details, practice avoidance, appear to be rehearsed, are less certain, are inconsistent, appear less pleasant and more tense, may experience deep feelings of guilt and shame.
- Trauma victims have physiological reactions such as high blood pressure, increased heart rate, increased respiration
- Trauma victims may demonstrate emotional arousal or may have a flat affect
- Trauma victims often have difficulty performing cognitively complex tasks and may appear to be disorganized
- Trauma victims may demonstrate a range of emotions including fear, sadness and anger
- Trauma victims may also demonstrate an unusual degree of rigidity and inhibition

So...now what?



- Understand – Pinocchio is the only 100% reliable human lie detector – and he is fictional
- Understand some of what we've been trained to do and the experience we have may actually hinder our ability to determine the truth
- Understand we may often confuse trauma with deception
- Understand there are emerging techniques we need to learn to increase our ability to better educate information (i.e. strategic use of evidence, better use of interpersonal skills during interviews & interrogations)
- Understand there is more than we don't know than what we do know